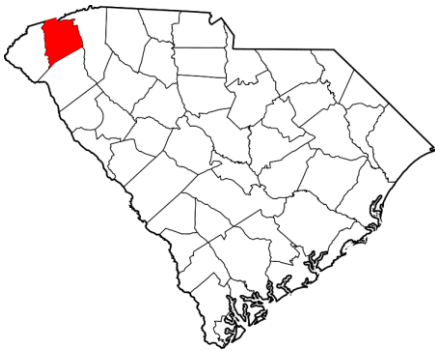


Annual Report to the People

October 2012
Pickens County



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service is to provide sound, scientifically based information to South Carolinians and help them use that information to improve the quality of their lives.

PICKENS COUNTY stormwater PARTNERS

Cathy Reas Foster, County Coordinator

With new stormwater mascots, Gilli and Finn, this year was eventful for collaborative stormwater outreach in Pickens County! The Pickens County Stormwater Partners (PCSP) built new partnerships through working together on various projects and events including Water 'n' Wildlife Day, the Stormwater Speaker Series, the Lawn Mower Exchange, pet waste projects, presentations, workshops, and youth projects. The partners worked with the SC Botanical Garden and the SC Department of Natural Resources to install rain gardens and rain barrels, which included hosting public workshops. The partners also collaborated with Pickens Middle School on a SC DHEC Champions of the Environment award project "Watershed Connections", and with Pickens High School on a Take Action for the Environment project "Water Wheel of Life" at Hagood Mill. These activities provided water quality and water resource education and involvement with the community.



Does your yard measure up?



Seven workshops and training sessions were held for homeowners and youth alike throughout the year. Churches, schools and non-profit groups participated to learn steps that can be taken with their lawns, gardens and neighborhoods to help protect the water quality of our lakes, rivers and streams.

4-H2O Program Reaches Pickens County Youth

Jessica Davis Simpson, 4-H Agent

The 4-H2O Pontoon Classroom Day Camp was offered on Lake Hartwell at Twin Lakes Recreation Area, which is an excellent site for the camp with ample swimming areas and a covered area for the classroom sessions. The 4-H2O

Pontoon Classroom was a 4-day program with 12 youth participating. The Pickens County Extension Office, Pickens County 4-H, the SC Department of Natural Resources, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Pickens County Stormwater Partners and the SC Botanical Garden partnered to make this program a success.

Participants collected water samples, observed microscopic and macroscopic life, conducted water-quality experiments and explored a stream at the SC Botanical Garden on the Clemson University campus. In addition, participants got the chance to learn about enhancing and preserving aquatic ecosystems and wildlife conservation.



Wood Boring Insect Monitoring

S. Cory Tanner, Area Horticulture Agent

Wood boring insects (borers) are major pests in commercial nurseries causing considerable economic damage. There are multiple species of borers that attack nursery crops and their lifecycles, emergence times, and means of attack are different. This makes it difficult for nursery managers to predict outbreaks and make appropriate pest management decisions. As a result, pesticide applications are often made unnecessarily, at the wrong time, or applied improperly. For the past 2 plus years I have been monitoring borer activity in upstate nurseries, working with nursery managers and Clemson University researchers to develop better Integrated



Pest Management strategies for dealing with these pests. Through this ongoing work we will be able to better predict borer emergence and supply nursery growers with information that will allow them to make better management decisions, saving them time and money and reducing pesticide use. View this video for more information: <http://youtu.be/Lx63Ay0ezVQ>

Pickens, Oconee, and Anderson County Master Gardener Program

South Carolina
Master Gardener
a Clemson Extension Program



Millie Davenport, Master Gardener Coordinator

The Master Gardener program offers research-based horticultural information in an exciting and educational format. The course is taught over a 16-week period covering subjects such as Botany, Pesticide Safety, and Vegetable Gardening. Participants then use their new knowledge to serve the local communities by educating others. Thirty-four students attended the course and 14 students graduated as Certified SC Master Gardeners. Each student is required to volunteer 40 hours of their time back to their local community. According to Independent Sector.org, volunteer hours are worth \$16.91/hour in South Carolina. Our 2012 Master Gardener Class will potentially donate 1,360 hours to South Carolina for a total value of \$22,997 worth of volunteer service to their local community.

Water 'n' Wildlife Day

Cathy Reas Foster, Water Resources Agent

Over 60 volunteers participated in the "Water 'n' Wildlife" Day on Saturday, March 31, to help protect the water quality and wildlife habitat of Lake Hartwell and the Clemson Experimental Forest. The 17,500 acre Clemson Forest has 100 miles of Lake Hartwell shoreline with many streams that flow through the forest on their journey to the lake. Volunteers worked at the Clemson University Outdoor Lab and at the Corps of Engineers Twin Lakes Recreation Area, which are located in the Clemson Forest adjacent to Lake



Water 'n' Wildlife



Lake Hartwell & the Clemson Experimental Forest

Hartwell to plant native trees; pick up litter; repair old and install new wood duck boxes; install bluebird, wren, and butterfly boxes; build an owl house, and conduct a shoreline survey. Volunteers also enjoyed a picnic lunch provided by the Lake Hartwell Association and heard speakers who discussed forest management and water quality in Lake Hartwell.



Thanks to all our Partners

CLEMSON
EXTENSION

PICKENS COUNTY
stormwater
PARTNERS

CLEMSON
outdoor lab



Multi-County Field Day Offers Upstate Cattle Producers Valuable Information

Matthew Burns, Beef Specialist

Approximately 35 beef cattle producers from Anderson, Oconee, Greenville, and Spartanburg gathered on April 28, 2012 to learn about artificial insemination, estrous synchronization, pregnancy diagnosis, and persistently infected BVD disease. Joe Davis Cattle Farm hosted the field day and the Pickens and Oconee County Cattlemen's Associations provided breakfast for everyone.

Higher input costs mean higher associated risk due to increased production cost. It is critical that producers have a rigid herd health program and begin to take advantage of technologies that may allow them to increase profit potential by decreasing input cost and increasing production.

Dr. Doug Ensley with Boerhengier Ingelhiem talked about BVD virus, why producers should test, and why producers should vaccinate to prevent outbreaks. Leslie Simmons with Southeast Animal Laboratories discussed lab services that allow producers to draw blood for pregnancy diagnosis and BVD testing.

Dr. Matthew Burns discussed the advantages of utilizing AI and estrous synchronization to increase genetic potential and production efficiency of beef cattle operations.

Jr. Naturalist Club Dives into Water

Janine Sutter, 4-H Agent

Pickens County 4-H started a new Jr. Naturalist Club at the SC Botanical Garden in Clemson. The theme for this year is WATER. Youth in grades 3-7 can learn about water quality, water pollution, animals and plants that live in the water, and water as power. Of course, they will also be learning how water is fun. The youth in this club will learn how to take better care of the environment and what changes at their homes can be implemented to make a difference. Best of all, the children are having a great time while learning these important facts. In the future, we would like to have a Jr. Naturalist program in each area of the county. The 2013-2014 school years' theme will be LAND, which should be very exciting!

Landowners Receive Forestry Programs Update



Carolyn Dawson, Forestry Agent

Many state and federal forestry programs offered to forest landowners have changed over the past few years and less and less information about them has been reaching the intended audience. In order to bring the forestry community up to speed, Clemson Extension hosted a public meeting inviting several state and federal agencies to discuss the programs available to forest landowners.

The South Carolina Forestry Commission, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oconee County Soil and Water Conservation District, Forestry Consultant John Little, and Clemson Extension all participated in the meeting. Topics covered included: conservation easements, NRCS cost-share programs and sign up procedures, services offered by the SC Forestry Commission, services offered by area forestry consultants, and services offered by Clemson Extension. Handouts regarding program information and contact numbers were distributed. Forestry professionals met and mingled with new landowners while strengthening bonds with familiar landowners. Forty-three people attended the meeting.



Meeting the Needs of the Turfgrass Manager in the Upstate

*S. Cory Tanner,
Area Horticulture Agent*

Commercial turfgrass managers need continuing education opportunities to stay current with best management practices and pest management strategies; allowing them to become more competitive in the marketplace. Additionally, these professionals are required to obtain pesticide license recertification credits to maintain their pesticide applicator licenses as required by law.

To meet this need, a team of Clemson Extension Agents and Specialists coordinated a day-long Turf School in Seneca, SC on March 22, 2012. The daylong training program included presentations about water quality and pesticide efficacy, management of turfgrass insects, disease management in lawns, turfgrass fertility management, and lawn weed management strategies. Attendees received resource materials, 4.5 SC pesticide license recertification credits, and lunch. Sixty-three commercial horticulturists consisting of landscapers, turf managers, and municipal grounds crews attended; mostly from the surrounding upstate counties of Anderson, Oconee, Pickens and Greenville. Of those responding to the program evaluation, 80% reported that the information presented was "very useful".

All reported that the program met their needs/expectations and that they gained new knowledge by participating. Fifty-five of 56 respondents reported that they will use the information presented in their job. By all indications the 2012 Clemson Turf School was a great success and welcomed by the industry.

Rainwater Harvesting

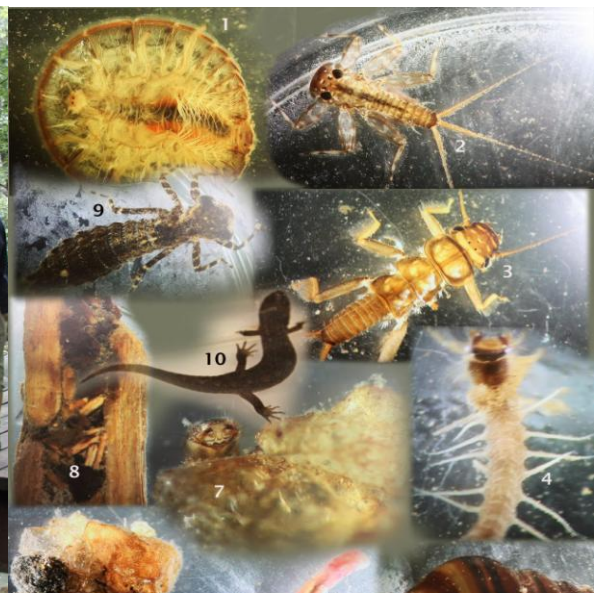


Cathy Reas Foster, Water Resources Agent

Rain barrels are a rainwater harvesting system that provides a greater awareness of the volume of water generated by impervious surfaces, such as rooftops, as well as an opportunity to utilize harvested rain for irrigation.

A program was implemented for youth, teachers, and community groups to increase awareness of stormwater issues by painting and installing rain barrels and providing an enviroscape demonstration to teach about watersheds and stormwater pollution. Participating groups included garden clubs, school classes, as well as the general public at public events and workshops. Rain barrels were beautifully and creatively designed and painted.





Upstate Master Naturalist Program Graduates 20 Students

James H. Blake, Master Naturalist Coordinator

The Upstate Master Naturalist Program graduated its fifth class on November 3, 2011, in the Cherokee Worldview Garden in the South Carolina Botanical Garden on the campus of Clemson University. During the 12-week course the class of 20 students visited the upstate's finest natural areas including Table Rock State Park, Kings Creek, Burrell's Ford, Jones Gap State Park, Stumphouse Tunnel, Oconee State Park, Caesar's Head State Park, Jocassee Gorges, Jumping Off Rock, Bunched Arrowhead Heritage Preserve, Lake Conestee Nature Park and the Clemson Experimental Forest.

The graduates of the program now have the opportunity to participate in many different types of volunteer activities. These might include assisting in a nature outreach program at a park, museum, nature center or school; assisting a scientist collecting bird census data; collecting data on water quality or many others. They also have the opportunity to continue learning by participating in advanced training and other activities offered by the Upstate Master Naturalist Association. All 20 students have joined the association bringing the current membership to nearly 100 Upstate Master Naturalists.

The Upstate Master Naturalist Program is one of seven host sites offering this Clemson Extension program statewide. The Upstate program is a partnership between the South Carolina State Park Service, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, and the Clemson University Cooperative Extension Offices in Pickens, Oconee and Greenville Counties.

The mission of the South Carolina Master Naturalist Program is to create a corps of citizen volunteers well trained in the fundamentals of natural history, nature interpretation and the interface of humans and nature in order to empower them to contribute their time and talents to responsible, science-based environmental stewardship.



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The Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to people of all ages, regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or family status and is an equal opportunity employer.

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South Carolina Master Cattleman Program Utilizes Distance Education Technology

Matthew Burns, Beef Specialist

Progressive producers are always looking for educational opportunities to further their business. Producers that are just getting started in the beef industry are also looking for these educational opportunities. Educational needs include risk management, basic production, business management, marketing, and production information. These producers are located all over the state of South Carolina. In an effort to expand the presence of the Livestock and Forage team programming while decreasing travel cost, we offered the 2012 Master Cattleman Class in two locations using distance education. The program offered participants face-to-face instruction coupled with remote instruction. The distance education was well received and with minor modifications will continue to be used.

Upstate Area Livestock Agent, Matthew Burns, and the Livestock and Forages Program Team designed a 6-night series Master Cattleman program to address the educational needs. Topics included marketing, reproduction, basic management, meat quality, forages, and herd health. Livestock Specialists, Area Agents, County Agents and Clemson

Faculty presented the lectures. The class was designed to help producers develop a farm management plan to cover all facets of production.

At a closer look, there were over 3,000 cows represented at this program. On the post survey, 100% of the participants indicated they would take at least one thing they learned and implement it on their farm. Producers surveyed also indicated this program was worth approximately \$3,000 to their operation. We had 44 participants x \$3,000 = \$132,000 in extra profit generated due to knowledge gained from the Master Cattleman class. We will continue to offer this class in different parts of the state to help improve the bottom-line of producers in South Carolina.

